

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10-12, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 9 and 13 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-17 are pending.

DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected because the replacement drawings submitted May 3, 2004 allegedly are not clear as to whether new matter is submitted. Applicants state that the replacements drawings include no new matter. Figure 1 is consistent with pages 2-3 of the specification as originally filed. Figure 2 is consistent with page 6 of the specification as originally filed. Figure 3 is consistent with page 7 of the specification as originally filed. Figure 4 is consistent with the originally filed Figure 4 as well as the specification as originally filed. Figure 5 is consistent with page 8 of the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

ABSTRACT

The abstract was objected to as not being descriptive. A replacement abstract is submitted herewith. Applicants submit that the replacement abstract satisfies the requirements of MPEP § 608.01(b). Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-17 were rejected as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the claims allegedly contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one of ordinary skill in the relevant art. The claims have been amended to consistent with the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, satisfy the enablement requirement.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The claims have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of the claims as being indefinite be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-17 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present

application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit
Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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